

John Hansell House  
153 N. Sixth Street  
Philadelphia  
Philadelphia County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1012

HABS  
PA  
51-PHILA  
242-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## JOHN HANSELL HOUSE

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51-PHILA  
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Address: 153 N. Sixth Street, Philadelphia, Philadelphia County,  
Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Demolished July 1959.

Brief Statement  
of Significance: A late 18th century row house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: John Hansell, Blacksmith, acquired the site of this row house by Sheriff's deed on August 12, 1788, together with a "Frame Messuage thereon..." [Deed Book EF 8, p. 431: the original deed has not been located]. On May 8, 1802, he sold the property, 18' x 80', including a "Three Story Brick Messuage", to Christian C. Denckla, Merchant, for \$300. [Ibid].

The property was passed on to Denckla's son, Christian C. Denckla [Jr.], a gentleman, (by will dated December 29, 1810) who in turn sold it on December 20, 1832, to John H. Campbell for \$3,200 [Deed Book AM 32, p. 124]. In this deed the house is described as earlier with the addition of a three story back building. On December 13, 1846, the house again changed owners, at this time being acquired by William C. Parker, "Ladies Shoe Maker", for \$4,800 [Deed Book AWM 59, p. 56]. The property remained with Parker, or his estate, until 1900, [Sheriff's Deed Book 201, p. 78: Parker to Henry L. Parmales].

2. Date of erection: Between 1788 and 1802.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Unknown.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Store front is not original.
6. Important old views and references:  
Views: None known.  
References: Records of City of Philadelphia.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: None of importance.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

D. Supplemental Material

Mutual Assurance Company Policy 5208

"SURVEY of John H. Campbell's Three Story Brick house, Situate No. 91 on the East side Sixth, between Cherry and Sassafras Streets, being the third house South of Sassafras Street, Front, 18 feet, including a 2 feet 6 inch Alley, Depth 19 feet, --- First Story, in one Room, neat mantle, surbase, washbd<sup>s</sup>, Closet & window Cased, plain Single wood Cornice Around the Room, --- Square headed front door, Neat pitch pediment, open pilasters, --- Second Story in one Room, plain mantle, surbase, washbd<sup>s</sup>, Closets & windows Cased---Third Story, in One Room, plain mantle, surbases, washbd<sup>s</sup>, Closets & windows Cased, ---Garret, in one Room & plaister'd Trap door, 2 square head dormar, windows 12 lights each, glass 8 x 10 in, from the Second Story, to the Garret, are 2 flights, Common winding Stairs, Kitchen, 13 feet, by 17 feet, Three Stories high, First Story, plain mantle, [ ], washbd<sup>s</sup>, surbase, & windows Cased.---Second Story, plain mantle, washbd<sup>s</sup>, & windows Cased -- Third Story, plain washbds, & windows Cased, Common winding Stairs, 2 floors heart pine, Other floors narrow white pine boards, Glass 12 lights 11 x 15. 24 do 8 x 15 & 164 do 8x10 inches, party walls 9 inches, Board partitions, An ashhole -- North & South, Three Story Brick houses -- Water plenty

(\$1000)

March, 1833 PHILIP JUSTUS"

Prepared by James F. O'Gorman - August 1959  
Architect, National Park Service

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: An example of a Brick city row house of the late 18th century.
2. Condition of Fabric: Building demolished, July 1959.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Three and one-half story house; Front 18' x 19'.
2. Foundations: Unknown.
3. Wall construction: Brick, west (front) elevation laid in Flemish bond, double belt course between second and third floors.

4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Two stone steps to entrance and to Alley.
5. Chimneys: One at south party wall. Presence of others unknown.
6. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: One pair of glazed door at entrance (not original,) and a four panel door to alley (not original).
  - b. Windows and shutters: Two 6 over 6 light, double hung windows at second floor; two smaller 6 over 6 light, double hung windows at third floor. Sash probably not original. Shutter pintles remain.
7. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, ridge parallel to street; originally covered with wood shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed wood cornice across front.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas: One gabled dormer faces west with one 6 over 6 light, double hung window. Presence of others unknown.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Unknown.
2. Stairways: Unknown.
3. Flooring: Unknown.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Unknown.
5. Doorways and doors: Unknown.
6. Trim: Unknown.
7. Hardware: Unknown.
8. Lighting: Unknown.
9. Heating: Unknown.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faced west; one of a row of buildings on East side of Sixth Street.

2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Unknown.
4. Walks, driveways: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: None.

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